



R.F. DOWNEY PUBLIC SCHOOL
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OCTOBER 2018 NEWSLETTER

Seek the best in ourselves and others
Participate in all aspects of our education
Pursue excellence and be the best that we can be

From the Principal's Desk



The very busy and exciting month of September is behind us and the fall colours are providing us with an amazing canvas to enjoy! The cooler weather is much welcomed and the fall foliage is a beautiful sight! I love this time of year! A huge thank you to everyone for your support and patience throughout September as we helped our families get back into routine! It was great to see so many smiling faces at our Open House!

As school work starts to build, an important part of promoting numeracy and literacy skills and assisting your child in meeting the academic goals they have set for themselves is making homework time successful. Homework helps to reinforce concepts that were taught in the classroom, and it prepares students to participate in the next day's class. We appreciate your support and efforts in reinforcing that all subjects are equally important, even if we think we won't need them in our future, we need to respect that they are part of the curriculum and that we must do our best and we must participate! On that note, indoor shoes are MANDATORY at school. Students without appropriate footwear will not be participate in physical education classes which are an important part of the curriculum.

As a school focus for improvement this year, we are exploring further development of our students' conceptual understanding of number along with the development of efficient computation strategies to apply to problem solving using math vocabulary. Through the problem solving model, we will support students in risk taking and critical thinking processes to work our way through problems that require more than one step to solve. This will happen in all subject areas, not only math. We are finding that our students become easily frustrated when a problem requires extended effort to work through the steps. It's okay not to have an immediate answer and a life skill to work our way through things step-by-step. We are also encouraging students to know the "why" of what they are being asked to perform. If they do not understand why they are doing what they are doing, and why this is the time chosen to be doing this task, then there is really no point in continuing.

We are also continuing to focus on student well-being. We continue to commit to making a 1% difference in our daily routines by adding a 15-minute walk outside to every day. This helps us prepare for learning and we want students to understand that a healthy body supports a healthy mind that is ready for learning. We continue to encourage students to limit their screen time and to shut things down and turn to a book or a quiet family activity at least one hour before bed. We also continue to focus on healthy ways to deal with stress, and how to recognize when we are not in the "green zone". Daily, we promote positive and respectful interactions in our daily home and school life.

Barb

Safe Arrival

Wow! Parents are doing a great job of calling the Safe Arrival number to report lates and absences. 1-844-434-8119. Keep up the good work, it a big help in keeping our office efficient!!

Crossing Guard Times and Locations

Towerhill Rd. @ Neptune	8:40-9:20	1:10-2:00	3:30-3:55
Hilliard St. @ Normandy St.	8:40-9:20	no lunch	3:30-3:55

School Council

Our first Council meeting of the year took place on Monday, October 1 and elections were held. Congratulations to returning Chair, Melanie Foster, Co-chair, Aaron Huizinga, Secretary, Kelly Grant, Treasurer Heather Brand and Regional Rep Aaron Huizinga. We are proud to have such an active council. Our first fund raiser is under way – Fresh From the Farm. Please promote this healthy initiative with your friends and family. Orders are due back to the school on October 10. Our next meeting date has been set for Monday, October 29 at 6:30 in the library. Budget and the Fund Raising Plan for the year will be discussed. *Hope to see you there!*

Upcoming Dates:

See calendar. Reminder that we do not bring our Halloween costumes to R.F. Downey as part of this seasonal celebration. We celebrate only for those who choose to participate by wearing **Orange and Black.**

Breakfast Club

Breakfast club has started up again for this year in the gym. It is held every morning from 9:00 – 9:15 with volunteers coming in to prepare nutritious food for students, to start their day in a positive way. The menu varies each day, but includes foods from various food groups. Donations of money or food are always welcome from families. If you wish to donate to our Breakfast Program, or have time to volunteer to prepare meals, please call the school to ask for more information. At R.F. Downey, we consider the Breakfast program to be a vital component to a balanced school day. All students are welcome to attend.

Keeping our Kids Safe

We continue to work on ways to encourage parents to drive, stop and park safely around the school when dropping off and picking up their children. We have staff on duty attempting to help with this, pylons placed to keep certain areas out-of-bounds, and our green safety turtles, encouraging parents to slow down and follow the rules! ***Please help us to keep our kids safe!!***

Stay Healthy this Fall: Tips from Your Health Unit

Getting the flu shot and washing your hands regularly are some of the best ways to stay healthy. Good hygiene practices also reduce the spread of common illnesses like influenza and enterovirus. Lower your risk and protect others by following these simple steps:

1. Get your flu shot. Vaccine will be available from your healthcare provider and pharmacies by mid-October.
2. Ensure your routine immunizations are up-to-date.
3. Wash your hands frequently.
4. Stay home when you are sick.
5. Cough into your sleeve.
6. Avoid touching your mouth, face, or eyes with unwashed hands.

7. Avoid sharing personal items.
8. Clean and disinfect commonly-touched surfaces.

For Peterborough City/County schools: Visit www.pcchu.ca for the latest updates and health tips.

EQAO

Our students worked hard to complete the grade level expectations of the Grades 3 and 6 assessment tasks! We are proud to share the following results:

Grade 3 Reading	61	Grade 6 Reading	75
Grade 3 Writing	66	Grade 6 Writing	69
Grade 3 Math	55	Grade 6 Math	53

This data provides us with areas of focus for 2018/2019 as outlined in the message from the Principal. We continue to work on inferring information from texts and using information from the text to back up our inferences, as well as problem solving with multiple steps and being able to defend our response using Math Talk vocabulary. We are naming our learning and its purpose.

We continue to encourage a learning environment where risk taking is encouraged because we know that we learn more from our mistakes than we do from our successes! For more information about EQAO, please visit <http://www.eqao.com>.

Register for KPR's Free Parent Conference October 20

Registration is now open for KPR's free, annual Parent Conference. Registration continues until October 12 at www.kprschools.ca for:

2018 Parent Conference – Mental Health, Math & Modern Learning

Saturday, October 20

8:15 a.m.-12:35 p.m.

Bowmanville High School, 49 Liberty St.N., Bowmanville

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Greg Wells

The Ripple Effect: Sleep, Think, Eat & Move Better

Plus choice of workshops, agency displays, refreshments & child minding for ages 2 & older

****NEW this year: Workshops for Parents & Kids or Teens Together, and a Workshop Just for Teens!**

It's all FREE. If you need assistance, have questions or if there are accommodations that would make the conference more accessible for you, your child or teen, please call 705-742-9773 or toll-free 1-877-741-4577, ext. 2001, or email judy_malfara@kprdsb.ca